(b) The country is self sufficient in refining capacity and has even developed substantial export capacity: As such demand for most petroleum products, except LPG, is largely met through indigenous production. The details of consumption/production/export and import of petroleum products during the last two years are as under:—

	2003-04 (MMT)	2004-05 (Provisional) (MMT)
Production	117.641	122.749
Imports	8.001	8.826
Consumption	107.750	111.710
Exports	14.620	17.527
Imports as % of Consumption	7.4	7.9
Exports as % of Production	12.43	14.28

(c) and (d) Appropriate measures to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production are being taken, which include the following:

(i) New areas for further exploration have been opened up under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. Exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. Further 18 more blocks have been awarded under the fifth round of NELP which will further accelerate the exploration of oil and gas in the country.

(ii) Accelerated exploration programme by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.

(iii) Exploration of oil and gas in the pre-NELP Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs).

(iv) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through acquisition of equity or Participating Interests (PI) in exploration acreages or producing properties.

Bangalore International Airport Project

*306. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in implementing India's first greenfiefd, corporate, joint sector airport of international standard at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to hasten the process of implementation of the Bangalore International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development, construction, operation and maintenance of the new international airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore are carried out by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), a special purpose vehicle incorporated under the Companies Act. BIAL has executed all
- major agreements in connection with this project. BIAL has already achieved the Financial Close on 23rd June, 2005. The new airport is expected to be operational within 33 months from the date of Financial Close.

Pending tourism projects of NER

*310. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various tourism projects for the development of tourism in NER pending with Government;

(b) the details of proposals and the reasons for pendency project-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to clear the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of Tourism is the responsiblity of the State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments.

Projects which are identified for development are required to be submitted in prescribed format, which has already been circulated to all